

MINNESOTA LEADS IN CHARTER SCHOOL MOVEMENT

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, my home State of Minnesota has a remarkable legacy when it comes to charter school education. By launching the first charter schools in the country, along with leading the way in public education and reform nationwide, we have been able to serve our students and community for the past 20 years in a better way.

In celebrating two decades now of achievement, let's ensure that this tradition continues by looking for further ways to improve these schools, making them effective for all American students. I was pleased, Mr. Speaker, that my amendment to the Empowering Parents Through Quality Charter Schools Act not only enhances teaching methods in schools, but also breaks down the barriers to make charter schools more accessible for the thousands of students that are now wait-listed across the country.

Young people should have the opportunity for a good education regardless of their ZIP code.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the recent anniversary for charter schools and encourage their support in the years to come.

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SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker the draft farm bill, unfortunately, contains serious damage to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the foundational food lifeline for millions of Americans. What a shame when unemployment levels remain too high, with the cost of living rising, with food prices going up that affect so many of our senior citizens, and millions of Americans who live at the edge. Surely this Congress can do better.

Wall Street speculators and bankers got to keep all their bonuses, and the Republican majority can't seem to find their way to ask the richest to pay something to help our Republic close the gap. Millionaires and billionaires, couldn't they forego some of their ill-gotten treasure, especially the speculators who led this Republic to the edge?

What do the Republicans do? Literally take food out of the mouths of children, seniors, the unemployed, the disabled—\$16 billion worth. Citizens who live at the edge of poverty receive \$1.50 per meal in benefits.

The farm bill thus far takes food off the table of up to 3 million Americans and asks nothing of millionaires and billionaires. What a shame.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the cuts to SNAP.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the deep cuts proposed to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The SNAP program provides low-income families, our disableds, and our elderly essential access to healthy foods. We should not ask our most vulnerable citizens to go hungry to balance the Federal budget. A cut of \$16 billion in SNAP benefits will not achieve that balanced budget.

SNAP benefits not only provide needed nutritional support to recipients; they support local economies and our farm operations by boosting sales of fresh fruit and vegetables at farmers markets and local grocery stores. Our Nation's farmers and ranchers produce high-quality abundant foods in a system that is the envy of the world.

There is no reason for anyone to go hungry in the United States. Let's produce a food and farm bill that each day gives farmers a fair deal and ensures all of our citizens nutritious meals.

GAME CHANGER FOR FOOTBALL FANS

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, in my home town of Buffalo, New York, nearly half the Bills games were blacked out last season because, despite an average game attendance of 67,000, the games were not sellouts because Ralph Wilson Stadium is one of the largest in the league.

Last week, we learned that NFL owners passed a resolution allowing teams to decide to broadcast games locally when more than 85 percent of seats are filled. This is a change to current policy, which requires a stadium to be sold out.

If teams embrace this new policy, it will be a game changer for football fans in Buffalo and across the Nation. This change would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of loyal sports fans, including Sports Fans Coalition, the Buffalo Fan Alliance, and the Bills Mafia.

I urge the NFL owners to opt into this policy and the Federal Communications Commission to consider a similar policy change. Fans support their local stadiums with their tax dollars. It's time for teams to give back something in return for that commitment that they have made.

BLOCKING PROPERTY OF PERSONS THREATENING THE PEACE, SECURITY, OR STABILITY OF BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-123)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") that modifies the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997, as modified in scope in Executive Order 13448 of October 18, 2007, and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13310 of July 28, 2003, Executive Order 13448 of October 18, 2007, and Executive Order 13464 of April 30, 2008, and takes additional steps with respect to that national emergency.

In Executive Order 13047, the President found that the Government of Burma committed large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma after September 30, 1996, and further determined that the actions and policies of the Government of Burma constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. To address that threat and to implement section 570 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-208), the President in Executive Order 13047 prohibited new investment in Burma. On July 28, 2003, the President issued Executive Order 13310, which contained prohibitions implementing certain provisions of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-61) and blocked the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to Executive Order 13310 or determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to meet designation criteria specified in Executive Order 13310. In Executive Order 13448, the President expanded the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13047, incorporated existing designation criteria set forth in Executive Order 13310, blocked the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to Executive Order 13448, and provided additional criteria for designations of other persons. In Executive Order 13464, the President blocked the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to Executive Order 13464 and provided additional criteria for designations of other persons.

While the Government of Burma has made progress towards political reform in a number of areas, including by releasing hundreds of political prisoners, pursuing ceasefire talks with several